(c) and (d) Railway alignments are selected after careful topographical and route surveys and suitably designed railway bridges are provided along the lines to facilitate the discharge of runoff water from catchment areas and rivers.

The construction of river training works and protection works along river banks to protect local population from flooding is done by the State Governments. A number of Railway Affecting Works like tanks and reservoirs are constructed by the State Government/local authorities subsequently the breach of which may endanger the safety of railway tracks besides affecting the local people. A system of joint inspection of such Railway Affecting Works by Railways and State Government officials is set up and the concerned authorities are advised of measures required to be taken by them in advance.

(e) During laying of railway line adequate number of bridges, culverts, openings etc. are provided along the railway line for efficient discharge of run off water and flood water from one side of track to other side. In due course, if additional openings are also needed same are provided by railway wherever required.

Revenue from advertising

635. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope for advertising revenue by letting out air and rail space;

(b) if so, how much money has been generated in the last two years from advertisements;

(c) whether adequate sum has not been generated from advertisements; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railways has earned approximately Rs. 36.72 crore & Rs. 50.21 crore in 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively through commercial advertisements on railways.

(c) and (d) Efforts are being made to generate additional earnings through commercial publicity by adopting a new approach on the subject.

Parcel Service Trains

636. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether parcel service trains have been introduced between Delhi-Mumbai and to other cities;

(b) whether it is proposed to introduce a parcel express train to Tuticorin *via* Chennai from Delhi to harness the potential of the port at Tuticorin;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The traffic originating and terminating at Tuticorin Port is only bulk traffic such as Coal, Coke, Fertilizer, Sugar, Timber logs, Crude Edible Oil, Petroleum Products, Ores, Liquid Chemicals, Containers etc., which are transported in goods wagons. These commodities are not transported as parcel traffic.

Racket in refund of tickets

†637. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big racket is operating in Railways on the pretext of refund of tickets;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite completion of journey, refunds are claimed on the same tickets;

(c) the total amount paid against refunds of tickets during last three years throughout the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.